

Sinclair Broadcast Group's recent actions have illustrated the dangers to localism caused by media consolidation. The airwaves are in the public domain and broadcast media's use of them is contingent upon proper and correct use--airing such political propaganda and disguising it as "news" is surely a breach of this compact. There should be swift and powerful repercussions for their violation of this agreement.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.